



Pfc. Kevin Nummerdoor

### **Outfitting the ANP**

Afghan National Police stand in line after receiving new uniforms from the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team Jan. 19. The PRT presented 533 sets of winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to the police at the main police station in Ghazni. "I see these guys standing out there doing their jobs in (harsh) weather every day. This should make their lives a little better," said Sgt. James Adkins, 551st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), who is assigned to the PRT's police tactical advisory team.



### **Contents**

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Welch, Co. C, 367th Eng. Bn., inserts a blasting cap in a block of C-4 during the final training exercise of the Explosive Ordnance Clearing Agents course. The course was designed as a way to bridge the gap between Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams and combat engineers.

See cover story Pages 8, 9 Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Page 3: ANA CGSC graduates fourth class of professional officers

Page 4: Postal Soldiers keep mail moving efficiently, effectively

Page 5: Korean Hospital on Bagram Airfield treats 130,000th patient

Page 6: National Guardsmen donate coats to orphaned girls in Herat

Page 7: Forward surgical team provides stabilizing care in forward areas

Page 10: Civil affairs team ventures into new territory in western Afghanistan

Page 11: Security team provides overwatch for southern road construction

Page 12: Soldiers, Airman travel to forward base to entertain brothers in arms

Page 13: Safeguarding the Coalition: Complacency kills

Page 15: Essay: Loyalty is fundamental to the Army's success

### CORRECTION

In the February 6, 2005, edition of the *Freedom Watch*, the Page 6 article titled "CMA team identifies medical needs in Tagab" states Afghan nationals are afflicted by, and treated for, various diseases, including smallpox.

The reference to smallpox is incorrect. The World Health Organization launched a global vaccination program that successfully eradicated smallpox. The global eradication of smallpox was certified in 1979 by a commission of scientists and subsequently endorsed by the WHO in 1980.

We apologize for any misunderstanding or confusion this error may have caused.



Freedom Watch is the weekly publication of Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander – Lt. Gen. David Barno Public Affairs Officer – Col. Tom R. MacKenzie

Freedom Watch, an Army publication, is published each Sunday by the 17th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circulation is 6,000 copies per week.

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is 0730 Zulu each Friday. All submissions are subject to editing by the 17th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Bldg. 425, Room 107, Bagram Airfield. We can be reached at DSN 318-231-3338.

#### Freedom Watch Staff

Commander – Maj. Steven J. Wollman NCOIC – Staff Sgt. Monica R. Garreau Editor – Spc. Chris Stump Journalists – Sgt. Frank Magni, Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl, Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons, Spc. Dijon Rolle, Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.cent-com.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get to the Freedom Watch. To be added to the weekly distribution list, e-mail freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil.



# ANA CGSC graduates fourth class

## 60 officers develop, return to lead soldiers

Story by Lt. Col. Susan Meisner Office of Military Cooperation - Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Sixty officers from captain to lieutenant colonel - graduated from the Afghan National Army's Command and General Staff College's fourth class in Kabul Jan. 25. The officers will take their places within the ranks of the ANA's kandaks (battalion), brigades and corps, as well as in key positions within the Afghan Ministry of Defense and General Staff.

The ANA CGSC has presented a total of 256 professional officers to the ANA, said Afghan Lt. Gen. Eshaq Noori, vice chief of the General Staff and keynote speaker at the graduation.

"We (the ANA) have participated in providing security for the constitutional Loya Jirga, presidential election, and presidential inauguration and will have many more responsibilities during the parliamentary election," he said. "That is a tough job, and we need such a professional officer (corps) to maintain the security all over the country."

The French-run school, under the auspices of the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan, began just over a year ago with French instructors who modeled the curriculum after their own.

"When they graduated the second class, they picked Afghan instructors from the graduates to help teach the next class," said Afghan Col. Majid Askarzoi, director of training and education for the school.

"The third class had 50 percent French instructors and 50 percent Afghan," he said. "Lessons are now taught completely by Afghan instructors with assistance by five French officers."

After Askarzoi graduated from CGSC, his French instructors asked him to stay on as

an assistant, until he assumed his present role.

The MoD prepares a list of school candidates with appropriate military experience. They must pass an oral interview and a comprehensive written test to gain entry to the school.

The 11-week course covers tactical skills, military education and exams, technical and staff skills, international organization and the law of war, physical training, basics of the English language, and computer skills. Practical and sand-table exercises round out the curriculum.

While the Afghan instructors will continue to tweak the course and improve translations for better understanding in the local language, Dari, they plan to stay with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization system developed by the French, said Askarzoi.

The graduates – recognizable by the green beret marking professional soldiers of the Afghan National Army - join a combatexperienced force, capable of deploying rapidly anywhere in the country.



Photos by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Above: Kabul Military Training Center commander ANA Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Asifi congratulates one of the latest graduates of the Command and General Staff College in Kabul Jan. 25.

Top: The ANA Ceremonial Guard stands at attention, welcoming distinguished guests to the fourth graduation ceremony of the CGSC.

## Combat postal unit helps redeploying troops

Story and photos by Spc. Dijon Rolle 17th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR

AIRFIELD.

Afghanistan — As many personnel throughout the country prepare to redeploy, they're relying on Soldiers from the 841st Adjutant General Company (Postal), U.S. Army Reserve, to help them send their personal items home.

After a year-long deployment, troops can easily find themselves with far more personal baggage than when they arrived. Weekly trips to the bazaar and Post Exchange, care packages from home and online shopping can add up.

Along with the excitement of redeploying can come the anxiety of what to do with all of these extra items.

While most units have designated pallets or shipping containers for sending things back home, space is usually limited and reserved primarily for mission-essential equipment. Another concern is that it can be months before these shipping containers reach their destination.

Many redeploying troops are being proactive and mailing personal items like clothing, electronics and souvenirs back to their home stations.

In addition to saving space, some said mailing their things directly home is faster and more convenient.

"For me, mailing everything is quicker, because I (permanently change stations) as soon as I get back," said Sgt. Jessenia



Pfc. Bruce Downard, 841st AG Co. (Postal), inspects the address on an outgoing package before sorting it at the Kandahar Airfield post office Jan 24.



Spc. Paula Bazler (left), 841st AG Co. (Postal), properly seals a customer's package at the Kandahar Airfield post office Jan. 24.

Johnson, Company C, 125th Signal Battalion. "Everything will be there ... already waiting," she said.

Johnson serves at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team and said she started shipping her items home as early as

"I just started mailing what I could, piece by piece, whenever I could. My unit gave us a list of what we could and couldn't mail as soon as we got there, so I knew what I would be taking home with me ahead of

Other Soldiers were just being proactive by packing up in advance of the end of

"I want it there when I get there," said Spc. Kenneth Lewis, Company C, 528th Engineer Battalion. "We knew we were moving, so I started packing up everything as soon as I could."

Lewis said he was pleased with the quality of customer service he received while visiting the post office.

"They're by the rules; they check everything," said Lewis with a laugh. "But they're always helping you out whenever you need

"I've been in here just about every day this week, so it's been pretty easy to get everything mailed off. They squared me away. I don't have any complaints."

Postal clerks are required to inspect all outgoing packages, and customers must have a valid identification card to mail items.

In addition to the stacks of tape, boxes and customs forms, there are several signs posted throughout the post office listing prohibited items, like TA-50, sand or soil, and cigarette lighters.

Postal Soldiers say the easiest way to ensure packages get to the right place at the right time is to ensure all customs forms and addresses are filled out properly, the items inside are packed correctly with paper or bubble wrap, and you ask questions if you're unsure about any item.

"We're here to help," said Spc. Candice Miller, 841st AG Co. postal clerk.

"We come into contact with a lot of different units every day, so it's rewarding to know that we're making a difference. It's one less thing the Soldiers have to worry

All of these steps can also shorten time spent waiting in line.

Most importantly, troops should simply follow postal rules and regulations.

Packages cannot weigh more than 70 pounds or exceed 130 inches in length plus girth. Once a package leaves the post office, it can take anywhere from one to two weeks to reach the United States if it's shipped priority.

Postal Soldiers credit unit mail clerks and commanders for helping to educate troops.

"This is definitely a team effort," said 1st Lt. Latanya Baker, 841st AG Co. postal officer.

"We work with the unit commanders, the unit mail clerks - everyone - to reinforce postal policies and to make sure we're providing the best service possible," she said. "Their support helps to make our mission

"We're pleased we can be of service to the troops and civilians serving on KAF."

## Korean Hospital treats 130,000th patient

Story by ROK Maj. Kim, Bongyoung Republic of Korea Hospital Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — For almost two years, the soldiers of the Korean Hospital at Bagram Airfield have been providing medical support to Afghans and members of the Coalition.

After many months of hard work and dedication, the 924th Medical Group of the Korean Hospital reached the achievement of treating 130,000 patients.

This remarkable record by the soldiers and marines of the Republic of Korea, who conduct first-degree treatment as a Level 1 Field Hospital on Bagram Airfield, was reached just 35 months after the unit's first deployment in February 2002.

This achievement shows that the soldiers at the hospital have received a high level of trust from the people of Afghanistan through the unit's kind hearts and high quality of medical service.

On the day of this achievement, the unit delivered a commemorative gift and wished for the quick recovery of a 3-year-old girl, Mina, who was the 130,000th patient.

"I feel so happy to have the honor of treating the 130,000th patient," said ROK Capt. Cho, Soo Hyun, who treated Mina. "I think our achievement is the result of

hard efforts that all of our medical staff have put in."

The hard work and dedication of the entire medical staff was apparent later that same day when an 18-monthold girl, Madiha, came to the hospital with 45 percent of her legs covered in third-degree burns.

After discovering that both her parents were unemployed and had no means of providing proper support to their injured daughter, the ROK soldiers decided to provide economic support to the family.

The hospital's generosity received heartfelt applause from Coalition members

when the commander and other officers delivered their generous gift to Madiha's parents the day she was released from the hospital.

"We felt sorry for her losing both legs. We wanted to help by acting as her legs, and giving her encouragement, self-confidence and hope for life," said ROK Lt. Col. Yoon, Sangrok.

The ROK soldiers plan to continue supporting her with medical equipment and school expenses as she grows into an adult.



Courtesy photo

ROK Lt. Col. Yoon, Sangrok, Korean Hospital commander, presents a commemorative gift to Mina. Mina, 3, was the 130,000th patient treated at the Korean hospital on Bagram Airfield.

To commemorate these achievements, and many others, the ROK medical group held a ceremony Feb. 3.

In attendance at the ceremony were many honored guests including Yoo, Young-bang, South Korean ambassador to Afghanistan, Amin Fatimie, Afghan Minister of Public Health, and Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander.

Through celebrating their achievements,

See Hospital, Page 14

### **Enduring Voices**

### What have you learned here that you will pass on to your successors?



Chief Warrant Officer Manny Ortiz CFC-A Joint Effects Directorate "Cherish this experience, and before you know it, you will be back home."



Pfc. Kendrix Kelly
Trp. D, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt.
"Stay motivated. Find ways
to keep yourself upbeat
and focused in order to
accomplish your mission."



Sgt. 1st Class
Erika Gordon
25th MP Co.
"Do what you can to make it better for the people who will be coming in after you."



Sgt. Travis Wyrick 551st MP Co. "The importance of support from family and friends back home, and what a well-built team can accomplish working together."

# Soldiers donate coats to orphaned girls

# National Guardsmen help young Afghans in Herat with gifts of winter clothing

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jerad Myers Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Public Affairs

HERAT, Afghanistan — The winter in Afghanistan is a little more tolerable for several girls from an orphanage in Herat, thanks to Lt. Col. David Enyeart and Sgt. 1st Class Scott Lucas, both of the Oregon National Guard, who delivered more than 50 coats to a girl's orphanage last month. The coats were donated by the Toledo Middle School in Toledo, Ore.

Accompanying Enyeart and Lucas on their goodwill mission were members of the Afghan National Army.

Brig. Gen. Aminullah Paityah and his staff were impressed with the expressions and reactions of the girls receiving their gifts. This was the first time the 2nd Brigade Headquarters of the ANA's Central Corps witnessed a donation of any humanitarian goods, said Paityah. The ANA soldiers appeared touched at

their reception by the smiles and waves of the little girls.

"It was great to have the ANA help distribute these coats," said Enyeart. "I want to thank the kids back at Toledo Middle School for pulling together a coat drive and getting them over here to those less fortunate here in Afghanistan."

Afghanistan has many orphanages across the country. Most orphanages cannot afford the basic necessity items for their children because of low operating budgets – food, water and shelter are about all they can afford.

Children whose parents died during the Taliban rule live at the orphanage through the week. Some who have family nearby are allowed one day a week to spend with them.

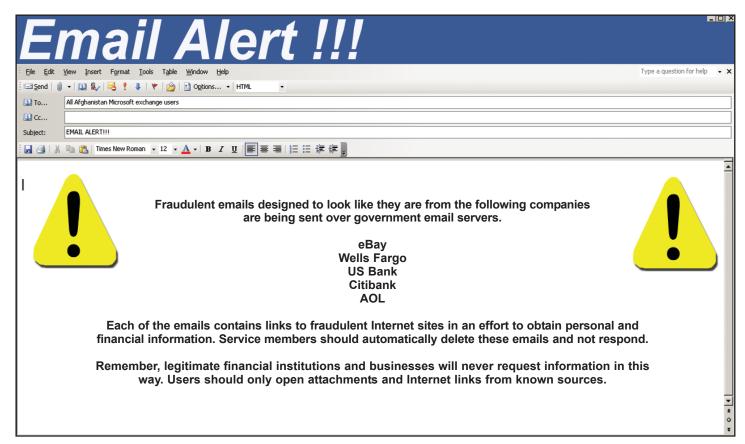
In this particular orphanage, the girls receive a basic education. Subjects that were once outlawed for women by the Taliban are now taught here. Math, grammar, writing and religious studies in the Koran are considered the basic fundamentals in education in Afghanistan.

As the Soldiers departed, the girls in



Lt. Col. David Enyeart, 2nd Brigade Embedded Training Team senior mentor, puts a coat on a young orphan in Herat city.

their new winter coats stood in front of their three-room home waving goodbye. This winter, hearts were warmed as much as the little girls in their new clothes.



## Saving Lives

# FST makes difference in Asadabad

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl 17th Public Affairs Detachment

ASADABAD PROVINCIAL RECON-STRUCTION TEAM, Afghanistan — As today's battlefield evolves, so does the medicine that keeps service members fit to fight.

Forward surgical teams are one way the military has adapted to the needs of the Global War on Terrorism. These teams are collocated with combat forces to provide immediate surgical care for the sick and wounded who need to be stabilized until they reach advanced care.

In Afghanistan, the 2nd FST, deployed from Fort Carson, Colo., is split in half. One portion is working at Forward Operating Base Ripley in southern Afghanistan, while the other half is at the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team in eastern Afghanistan, where they provide surgical capabilities to the northeastern part of the country.

"Our job is to provide surgical support - forward stabilization and surgical capabilities," said Lt. Col. Lonnie L. Imlay, 2nd Forward Surgical Team commander and general surgeon.

These capabilities help save the lives of Coalition forces and Afghans alike.

"(Coalition) guys are out there every day," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen S. Moreno, 2nd FST acting first sergeant.



Members of the 2nd FST evaluate an external fix on a broken femur to ensure it is properly placed. The external fix, which is a temporary repair, consists of a group of rods placed in the broken bones and secured to the outside of the leg to prevent the possibility of jagged edges on the bone from severing the femoral artery.

"They deserve the best care we can provide."

At the PRT, this care includes advanced trauma life support and operating room capabilities.

The unit has performed a variety of surgeries, including appendectomies and hernia surgeries.

In many cases, the team works to extend the lives of their patients with severe, life-threatening injuries until they reach more

See FST, Page 14

### PHOTOS FROM THE FIEL

Spc. Christopher McNamee takes a shot during a basketball game on a cool morning at Kandahar Airfield. The members of the operations section of Combined Task Force Bronco took advantage of some free time to get in some extra physical training.

> Photo by Capt. Kevin Dunham HHC, CTF Bronco

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



# UXO: Engineers learn new demo skills to combat unexploded ordnance

Story and photos by Spc. Cheryl Ransford 17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — To meet mission requirements in the Global War on Terrorism, service members are developing new skill sets to successfully execute their duties.

One group of service members finding additional skills necessary for continued success are combat engineers who often need the skill sets of explosive ordnance disposal technicians to complete their mission.

Engineers serving in Afghanistan are no exception. In the past, the Army and Marine engineers often had to halt missions until EOD support arrived to dispose of the ordnance. These delays can last hours and even days due to the limited number of technicians.

As a solution, a new course has been designed that will train engineers as Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agents to properly dispose of selected ordnance items and continue their mission.

Instructors from the Ordnance, Munitions and Electronics Maintenance



Sgt. Mike Stockhausen, 229th Eng. Bn., tapes detonation cord to blocks of C-4 during an exercise.



Staff Sgt. Robert Sterling (left), EOD Training Dept., assists Sgt. Daniel Elnes, Co. C, 367th Eng. Bn., while setting up a demolition charge needed to detonate a piece of ordnance during a training exercise at East River Range Jan. 31.

School and the EOD Training Department at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., traveled to Afghanistan to conduct the first EOCA course.

"The course is designed to teach engineers how to identify munitions, and teach them how to dispose of certain ones in order to accomplish their mission," said Maj. Robin Wisdom, Redstone Arsenal EOD Training Department training division chief. "Trained personnel will now be able to destroy selected UXOs in place, under specific conditions, in order to complete their mission in a timely manner."

This training will be utilized when engineers are conducting area and route clearance missions.

Trained clearing agents will prove invaluable in Afghanistan, said Staff Sgt. William Green, 229th Engineer Battalion, a student of the EOCA course.

"As we conduct our missions, we sometimes come across ordnance that needs to be destroyed in order for us to be able to continue our mission," he said. "By getting the certification to be able to blow certain ordnance, it will make our overall mission more successful. We will

no longer have to halt the mission and wait for EOD to arrive."

By conducting the EOCA course in Afghanistan, the instructors were able to design the course around the feedback coming from the students who have operated in theater.

"All these guys have been out there and know what the engineers are running across during their missions," said Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hubbard, EOD Training Dept. training sergeant major.

"The feedback that they have given us during the course has helped us in preparing for future classes," he said. "We have a better idea of what these guys down-range are encountering."

The resident course that will be conducted at Redstone will be influenced by the training taking place in Afghanistan, as well as feedback from the instructors upon their return to the EOD school.

"Currently, all of the students going through the course are enlisted service members," said Wisdom. "However, once the course begins at Redstone, there will also be engineer officers who will be taking the course. Even though everyone will receive the same training, the

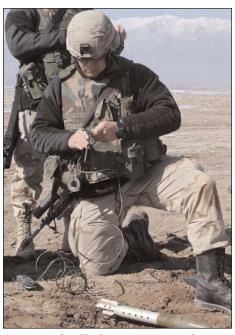


younger service members will need senior (noncommissioned officer) and officer leadership to oversee the operations that are being done."

During the graduation ceremony for the first 15 EOCA-qualified service members, Lt. Col. Andrew Jasaitis, 65th Eng. Bn. commander, told the graduates and their fellow service members in attendance that the development of this new qualification is not a way to replace EOD. But the trained EOCAs will be valuable assets on the battlefield. "Engineers are like combat life savers, while EOD is like the surgeons," he said. "We needed something to fill the gap in the middle. This course has been a joint effort between the EOD school and the engineer units deployed to Afghanistan."

The skills that are being taken away from this course will prove to be a valuable asset when it comes to the engineers' effectiveness on the battlefield.

"Out here we don't have a second chance," said Jasaitis. "It's all about getting the mission done."



Above: Staff Sgt. William Green, 229th Eng. Bn., clamps a blasting cap onto a piece of timed detonation cord during a training exercise.

Above left: Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Welch (left) and Staff Sgt. Lance Fisher, both of Co. C, 367th Eng. Bn., build a containment barrier out of sandbags and wood planks. The barrier was used to contain the blast from a Russian PG-7 warhead.



Marine Sgt. John Nemec, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, carefully places a blasting cap next to an OG-9 fragmentation grenade during the final training exercise of the EOCA course.



Story and photos by Sgt. Frank Magni 17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT PROVINCE, Afghanistan — While various Coalition forces have been working for more than three years reconstructing Afghanistan, there are still areas untouched by the constant efforts of civil affairs professionals. Whether it is seasonal weather effects, ever-changing road conditions or security concerns, civil affairs teams are still pushing into the remote areas of the country, bringing with them critical assistance essential to the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

One such civil affairs team from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, working the Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team, marked a few more areas off their map when they braved narrow mountain passes and uncooperative muddy roads to reach the seldom-entered northeast area of Herat province. With the majority of non-governmental organizations focusing on improving areas in and around Herat city, civil affairs teams are making an effort to go farther into the province to facilitate reconstruction, said Spc. Jennifer Raszynski, 450th CA Bn. civil affairs specialist.

Traveling to the area at the request of the Herat provincial government, the team first traveled into the Kushkikuna district to Khoclani village. At the village, the team met with village officials, including the deputy governor, district police chief and elders. "It is really good when we have most of the key players in one place," said Sgt. 1st Class Wiley Jones, 450th CA Bn. team noncommissioned officer in charge. "It is important that we convey to all of them that the government is here to serve them."

Another advantage to having so many officials in one place is that it gives the

team a good overview of the district's needs, said Jones. As a result of their meeting in Khoclani village, the team discovered the presidential election was a huge success in the district. They also determined there is a need for girl's

See Assess, Page 14



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Wiley Jones, 450th CA Bn., talks with leaders in western Afghanistan's Moushwai village. The objective of the mission was to assess village needs to determine future projects in the area.

Top: Jones and Spc. Jennifer Raszynski, also of the 450th CA Bn., walk with village elders and leaders of Buttahgaz village. The civil affairs team visited the village in western Afghanistan to assess the population's needs.





Above: A member of the FOB Tiger security team talks to children along the Tarin Kowt road project Feb. 2.

Left: Spc. Mike Kroells, FOB Tiger security team, pulls security on the ongoing Tarin Kowt road construction project near Forward Operating Base Tiger.

## Tiger Soldiers provide construction security

Story and photos by Spc. Dijon Rolle 17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TIGER, Afghanistan — After an early morning breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and eggs, and a final vehicle, radio, and weapons inspection, and a pre-mission brief, Spc. Mike Kroells, an electrician from the 109th Engineer Group, is ready to begin his day.

Kroells is one of several Soldiers at FOB Tiger who make up the base security team. The team is ultimately responsible for providing security for the ongoing Tarin Kowt road construction project in southern Afghanistan.

"We're here to make sure that the engineers working on the roads are able to do their job," said Kroells. "We're an extra set of eyes and ears protecting them while they work."

Cpt. Randall Griebell, 109th Eng. Grp., serves as the security team officer in charge.

Griebel and his Soldiers, along with several members of the Afghan Security Forces, and sometimes local police, position themselves along the road every day, watching as construction crews dig and plow through the rough, rocky terrain. Each team consists of a gunner, driver, vehicle commander and a dismount. Day after day, they stand guard and witness first-hand the transformation of this

remote area into a major roadway for the country. As monotonous as the work can be, the Soldiers know the importance of staying vigilant.

"We have to always expect the unexpected," said Griebell. "Anything can happen at any time."

The group has already found several weapons caches close to the roadway.

"We never want to become complacent," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Boomer, 109th Eng. Grp., day security noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We're out here every day, monitoring what goes on, and we do see some of the same things, the same people every day," he said. "But we have to keep our

Spc. Trevor Gray, Headquarters and Service Company, 528th Eng. Bn., serves as a gunner for one of the security teams operating along the Tarin Kowt road construction project near Forward Operating Base Tiger.

guard up and be ready, or someone could lose their lives out here."

In addition to being an extra set of eyes and ears for their fellow Soldiers, the security team must also try to keep the villagers safe. They prevent them from entering the road while the construction crews are working and re-direct traffic around the construction site. They are also responsible for escorting explosive ordinance disposal personnel to the road every morning to check for hidden explosives before the engineers begin work for the day.

At the end of the day, all of the construction workers and security teams meet at a pre-designated rally point and

convoy back to the base, unload their equipment, perform their end of mission preventive maintenance checks and services, refuel their vehicles, and prepare for the next day's mission.

The FOB Tiger security team is comprised of Soldiers from several different units currently serving here. When they are not securing the road project, the group also conducts presence patrols around the area.

"It's rewarding being able to play a part in this project, to see it progress," said Kroells. "I think this road is a big step toward Afghanistan being able to stand on its own. We're proud of it and I think the people are too."

# Soldiers, Airman boost morale during 'off time'

Story and photo by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons 17th Public Affairs Detachment

FIREBASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan — The sound of an acoustic version of the Guns 'n' Roses classic "Sweet Child O' Mine" filtered through the base dining facility, where Soldiers stationed at Firebase Lagman in Zabul province were gathered.

The entertainment wasn't provided by a headliner on some USO tour, but by service members desiring to share their love of music with others. Sgt. Charles Duncan and Sgt. Jonathan Swigert, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combined Task Force Bronco, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Megan King, 451st Air Expeditionary Group, Combat Weather Team, 17th

Operational Weather Squadron, traveled from Kandahar Airfield to entertain those living at the austere firebase in southern Afghanistan.

"Being able to entertain our fellow Soldiers is such a great thing," said Duncan.

The band, which covers anything from Janis Joplin's "Bobby McGee" to Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," as well as sings original songs, met at an open mic night at KAF.

"I didn't know (Swigert) until we got to KAF," said Duncan. "We started playing together at open mic night. One night, King came up and timidly asked if she could sing. Then she just belted out a Gun's 'N' Roses song and it was amazing."

Boosting the morale of forward deployed Soldiers is fulfilling, said King.

"Since I joined the Air Force, I've wanted to be able to help



Sgts. Charles Duncan and Jonathan Swigert, both of HHC, CTF Bronco, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Megan King, 451st AEG, play for Soldiers at Firebase Lagman. The group formed at Kandahar Airfield and gave up some of their personal time to play for forward personnel.

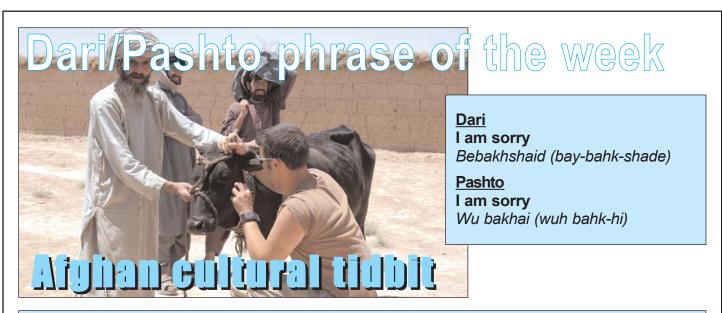
others," she said. "Music is such a great way to relax. It helps people escape for a brief moment. Seeing the Soldiers relax, kick back and have a good time is so worth it."

Helping others through music is a theme throughout the group.

"I joined the Army to help other Soldiers," said Duncan. "I try to do that every day on the job by leading, training and giving everything I can to my Soldiers. Now, I have another way to help Soldiers. That's what I'm here to do."

Music and live entertainment is a time-proven method of boosting morale among troops. Having other service members provide that entertainment is even more meaningful for the Soldiers in the crowd.

See Band, Page 15



Afghanistan has a tradition of nomadism in which herds of sheep, goats and occasionally cattle are taken up to high mountain pastures for extended periods of time. There are few true nomads today – people with no permanent residence who migrate with their flocks. The typical herdsman is usually a small farmer as well, with a permanent home and village from which he takes his flocks to summer pasturage, leaving family members behind to care for the crops.

# Complacency = Major deployment danger

# Safeguarding the Coalition

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Magni 17th Public Affairs Detachment

AFGHANISTAN — After extensive preparation and training in the months leading up to deploying, and then a year of operating in a combat zone, it will all soon come to an end for many serving throughout Operation Enduring Freedom.

With redeployment only a month, or even weeks, away for many, the anticipation and emotions of ending their deployment are beginning to consume many people.

Whether it is the daydreams about a new assignment or spending time with missed family and friends, redeployment is quickly becoming a close reality for many service members here.

But along with this reality comes a fertile environment for complacency, said Garrett Lozier, Combined Joint Task Force-76 safety director.

A retired Army first sergeant and veteran of many training and operational deployments, Lozier has seen how the final weeks of a deployment can be very dangerous if not handled correctly.

"It is a combination of things," said Lozier. "(Service members) are not only distracted with going home, but they fall into a dangerous habit of relying more on routine than preparation. That, along with the increased workload of packing up and going home, sometimes results in (service members) cutting corners and not remaining vigilant."

For CJTF-76 and 25th Infantry Division (Light) Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Ashe, the answer to combating a sense of complacency remains simple consistent leadership.

"All leaders must remain disciplined professionals and stay aware," said Ashe. "Just because we are about to leave, it doesn't change our mission here."

From the most senior task force commander down to the most junior team leader, the theme must remain on safety, said Ashe.

"Nothing has changed," he said. "The enemy is still trying hard to kill us ... and we still operate in one of the harshest environments in the world."

Two areas Ashe feels are most important are weapons and vehicle safety.

"A leader cannot talk enough about weapons safety," he said. "The day a leader feels they are becoming redundant about weapons safety, they are becoming complacent themselves."

Staff Sgt. Jose Gomez (front), 58th MP Co. squad leader, reads the operation order prior to conducting a security patrol. Athough he and his squad have conducted the same patrol over the same terrain many times, the operation order is read each time to avoid complacency.

Procedures like proper clearing and handling of weapons and muzzle awareness are two of Ashe's biggest concerns.

In vehicles, seatbelts and troop straps should always be in use, he said. Crew and rollover drills should also be done prior to any convoy.

While Ashe said he realizes there is a lot of thought that must go into post-redeployment plans, now is not the time to be thinking about it.

"All of those things are insignificant right now, he said. "What is important is keeping your head in the game."

Ashe said even though each service member has their own individual concerns, they must trust that their units are setting up the best environment and support system in the rear to handle each situation.

A healthy grasp on what redeployment really means is one of the most important

things service members can focus

"You have to look at redeployment as just a change in mission," said Lozier. "Although we are leaving Afghanistan and going home, we will still have many issues to contend with."

While vigilance can seem challenging in a time of extreme flux, service members must find simple methods to deal with redeployment.

"I'm just handling these last few months the same way I handled the first," said Spc. Travis Patton, 58th Military Police Company. "I just take it one day at a time."

When Patton returns to Hawaii, he has the task of moving his family back to the island, along with the possibility of moving to another unit. Although he admits he thinks about these things every day, they immediately take a back seat during missions.

"It is just too far ahead to let it distract you," said Patton.

Patton's squad leader, Staff Sgt. Jose Gomez, said distractions are easy to keep to a minimum.

"Something happens every week to remind us what kind of environment we are in," said Gomez, referring to various events of the past ten months, such as improvised explosive devices, indirect fires on Coalition assets and vehicular accidents.

While the solutions to combat complacency can remain as simple as taking each day as it comes, it's also a simple fact this deployment will end soon enough for many personnel on the ground.

But it's not over until it's over.

"We have done many great things since being here and have many reasons to be proud," said Ashe. "But just remember that this thing isn't over until you are sitting in your house in civilian clothes."

## FST: Surgical team provides forward life-saving care

#### continued from Page 7

advanced treatment.

"A patient may have to travel an hour to get to another facility," said Sgt. Brad Winch, intensive care unit noncommissioned officer in charge.

Working out of a chemical-biological protective shelter – a sealed facility that provides a sterile environment for surgeries – the operating room team stabilizes serious patients until a medical evacuation helicopter can arrive to transport the patient to the 325th Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Airfield for further treatment.

The FST's main focus is to save lives. It's a strong sense of camaraderie and teamwork that allows them to do this successfully.

"This isn't just a team, it's a family," said Sgt. Gregory A. Hough, advanced trauma life support noncommissioned officer in charge. "I would put my life in the hands of anyone in this unit." Part of that attitude comes from the process of joining the FST. The members are selected individually, based on their skills and their abilities to work as a team.

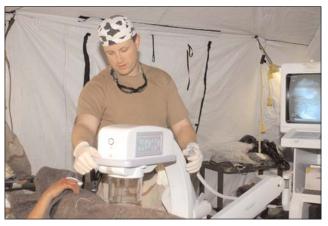
"There's no room in this unit for someone who doesn't get along with others," said Hough.

The selection process also brings together talented individuals with experience and knowledge to pass on to others.

"There's always something to learn," said Hough. "And someone's always willing to teach."

While each member of the FST is enthusiastic about learning from each other, they're hoping to teach others outside their unit as well.

"FSTs are fairly new," said Staff Sgt.



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

Staff Sgt. Michael Adkins, 2nd FST operating room specialist, takes X-rays of an Afghan boy's leg. The 13-year-old boys femur was broken by an IED blast in eastern Afghanistan's Konar province.

Michael Adkins, operating room specialist. "They've had a lot of success in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and I hope this success helps others to see our capabilities so that we can continue to be used effectively."

## Hospital: ROK doctors medically care for Coalition, Afghans

continued from Page 5

the group has made resolutions to continue to contribute to world peace through the "healing art of love."

During the ceremony, Yoon said that treating 130,000 patients proves their great contribution to the settlement of peace in Afghanistan.

"We will continue to provide the highest quality of medical services to the people of Afghanistan and the Coalition with a spirit of kindness and sacrifice," he said.

The hospital staff also exchanged letters of appreciation with Olson, and the commanders of both the 325th Combat Support Hospital and the Egyptian hospital on

Bagram Airfield in recognition of the support they have provided to the Korean hospital.

The group's achievement truly displays the excellence of the ROK armed forces, said Yoon.

"This group of soldiers has contributed greatly to creating a favorable impression of the Korean soldiers among the Afghan people," he said.

The work being done by the ROK soldiers is directly related to the Coalition mission, said Olson.

"The contribution of bringing health to 130,000 people is significant," he said. "130,000 people treated is 130,000 lives that have been changed because of these soldiers."

## **Assess**: CA introduces Coalition to remote Afghan villages

continued from Page 7

schools, along with wells for drinking water.

After the meeting, the team moved farther into the mountainous region. Traveling into various valleys, the team came across several villages inhabited by Kuchi tribesmen. The Kuchis, a nomadic tribe spread throughout Afghanistan, often move their camps to stay in fertile grazing areas for their livestock.

After meeting with several village leaders in the valley, the civil affairs team discovered that the Kuchis in this area don't move around as much. Instead, the tribes keep their villages in one place and

move their flocks up and down the fertile valley. The tribes expressed a need for tools. The Soldiers made note of the Kuchis' needed items for future missions and then distributed radios and soccer balls as a goodwill gesture to their new friends.

In all, the mission lasted four days. The team covered hundreds of kilometers and found routes to use when they travel to the region in the future.

"This was one of the most well-rounded (civil affairs) operations I've been on," said Jones. "We were able to get feedback on security, healthcare, agriculture, education, roads, as well as (Afghan National Army) recruitment and other

NGO activities in the region."

The CA team now has many weeks' worth of work by using the information obtained on the mission. They will write local reports used for continuity on the PRT, submit information to a national database and propose projects to the Afghan government.

Knowing they are contributing to country-wide reconstruction brings much job satisfaction to these civil affairs Soldiers.

"I love this job," said Raszynski. "From going out and communicating with the people, to seeing project nominations come to fruition ... it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

## Essay: Loyalty – first among the list of Army values

This essay is the winner of the CJTF-76 values essay contest for "Respect."

Have you ever wondered why a Soldier's chin rises slightly higher than normal during the playing of the National Anthem, or why his salute is sharp and crisp when he renders a final salute to a fallen comrade?

Loyalty is the cornerstone of a great legacy that's been built by generations of Americans who have proudly served in our

Loyalty can be described as a willingness to be faithful to an ideal or institution. In reviewing that rudimentary definition, the first thing that comes to mind is the integrity of a family.

In my opinion, family is the bedrock of all American institutions and the Army is one of the largest families that exist. Most of us have held tight to traditions and values passed on from our parents and their parents before them.

The Army is no different. Its model was born from history and traditions passed on by Soldiers before us and those before them.

Each Soldier considers him or herself a part of the Army family and looks to the other for support, guidance, and structure. We all spend our lives searching for something to believe in. When we find it, we remain faithful to it. We nurture it and allow it to nurture us.

Loyalty is a fundamental stitch in the seams of the Army

blanket. Each piece is held firmly together by the fidelity of the private standing guard with orders to keep the post safe or the sergeant first class who makes sure each of his Soldiers has an opportunity to eat chow before him.

Without dedication to their self or their fellow Soldiers, the threads binding this blanket would begin unraveling quickly.

I believe the philosophy "Never Leave a Fallen Soldier Behind" displays loyalty at its most profound level. If loyalty was nonexistent in today's Army, a mother who mourns the loss of her child would never be able to shed a tear on his flagdraped coffin. She would never be able to lay his body to rest. She would have to live with the thought that her child was alone in the final moments of his life. It is indicative of our character as Soldiers to hold devotion to one another deep within us. Because of that, this mother will have the opportunity to make peace with her grief.

There are Soldiers here in Afghanistan who served in operations in Vietnam. Many Soldiers here have been on other deployments to Kosovo or Bosnia or Somalia before coming to Afghanistan. Most Soldiers are facing deployment to Iraq after rotating from Afghanistan, yet they have signed on for another enlistment. Why do these Soldiers continue to serve?

Loyalty – the first among the list of Army values.

Sgt. Christopher Kozloski 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## Band: Service members give up free time to entertain

continued from Page 12

"These Soldiers and Airman taking time out of their schedule to fly all the way out to Lagman is amazing," said Spc. John Williams, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment. "They are out here because they are trying to

make a difference. They use their off time to practice. It's great to see people trying to make a difference for their fellow Soldiers.

"It's awesome that they would come out here," he said.

Traveling to the firebase was especially meaningful to the group.

"We are all in the same boat," said King. "We are away from our family and friends. But, when you see how the Soldiers are living out here, without all the amenities we have at KAF, it's incredibly humbling. I want to do anything we can to help boost the morale of these guys."

The band hopes their brief visit helped give the Soldiers a break from the everyday stresses of life on a firebase.

"I hope our visit lets them know other Soldiers care about them and the mission they do," said Duncan. "People love company - especially when they bring entertainment."

### Letters to the Editor

The Freedom Watch would like to publish your opinions on topics of importance and interest to those serving in OEF.

Please send your thoughts in letter form to the editor. All letters e-mailed must include full name, unit, address and, when possible, telephone number. We will not print anonymous letters. Please limit all letters to 200 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and decorum.

Please avoid implying criticism of U.S. or DoD policies and programs, advocating or disputing specific political, diplomatic or legislative matters, or implying criticism of host nation or host nation sensitivities.

Please send your letters to: freedomwatch@baf.afgn.amy.mil

We look forward to hearing from you!

#### **OEF "Values" Essay Contest**

Personnel in Afghanistan are invited to participate in the Operation Enduring Freedom bi-monthly "Values" Essay Contest sponsored by CJTF-76

The current value is "Duty."

Rules

Essays should include the definition of the featured value and your own experience(s) that reinforce this value

Essays will be at least one and no more than two pages (typed/neatly printed and double-spaced)

Please include a cover page with Title, Author's Name, Supervisor's Name, Unit/Organization, Phone Number and e-mail address if available

☐ Do not put name directly on essay ☐ Submit essays to EO Adviser nearest your location, via e-mail or hard copy by Feb. 25.

The winning essay writer will receive a CJTF-76 Commanding General's Certificate of Achievement and other prizes to be announced. The essay will also be published in a future issue of the Freedom Watch, and in the bi-monthly EO Update.

EO is also looking for E-7s and above to help review essay submissions and select the winning essay.

Call the Bagram EO Senior Adviser at DSN 318-231-3021 for more information.

